

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PURSLEY TO LEAVE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
FOR TELEPHONE CONSULTING JOB WITH WASHINGTON FIRM**

LINCOLN – The first director of the Public Service Commission's department of Nebraska Telecommunications Infrastructure and Public Safety (NTIPS) will leave his post July 1.

Jeff Pursley will become a Lincoln-based consultant on telephone matters with the Washington D.C.-based firm of Parrish, Blessing and Associates. He has been with the Commission since February, 1999, when he was appointed director of the newly-created Nebraska Universal Service Fund department. Pursley subsequently was named director of NTIPS when the Universal Service Fund was merged with the Wireless E-911 department in 2006.

In those capacities, Pursley oversaw several changes in the state's telephony industry including creation of the state Universal Service Fund. Other milestones for Pursley and his department were the equalization of residential and business telephone rates, a significant reduction of in-state long distance rates due to lowering access charges, expanded support for low income Nebraskan's telephone service through the Lifeline/Linkup program, and the renaming the program the Nebraska Telephone Assistance Program.

In addition, Pursley supervised the Commission's efforts to implement Nebraska's tele-health network which links approximately 80 hospitals for tele-medicine purposes.

In the two years that Pursley has directed the state's deployment of Wireless E-911 services, the program has achieved an 89.9 percent saturation of the state's residents for Phase II, the final implementation portion of the plan mandated by the Nebraska Legislature.

"Nebraska has been the acknowledged leader on reforming telephone prices and universal service funds," he said. While at the Commission, Pursley has served on a federal/state joint board on universal service and chaired a state universal service fund work group for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.

Pursley came to the Commission from Aliant in Lincoln where he was government relations manager.

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